

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 4, 2020

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your steadfast support of North Dakota as the State continues to grapple with persistent natural disasters as well as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Most recently, North Dakota was heavily impacted by a severe summer storm that caused flash flooding in several counties and resulted in more than \$5 million in damage to North Dakota's infrastructure. We write in support of the State of North Dakota's request for a presidential disaster declaration for the severe flash flooding damage caused by this storm.

As the result of the storm that occurred from June 29, 2020 to July 1, 2020, flash flooding demolished roads, destroyed infrastructure, and damaged homes with high winds, hail, and between 4 to 8 inches of rain. This substantial flooding has greatly impacted the following six North Dakota counties: Benson, Grand Forks, McKenzie, Mountrail, Nelson and Wells, resulting in significant damage for homeowners, businesses, and our agriculture industry. Lightning strikes and high winds damaged electrical equipment and power lines, leaving many North Dakotans without power, while high water levels flooded already over-saturated fields and pastures. Additionally, key pieces of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and railroad tracks were destroyed from the flash flooding. Preliminary assessments from the State indicate damage to local infrastructure systems in excess of \$2.25 million, and that damage to the state's Federal Aid System highways totaled nearly \$2.9 million. Finally, North Dakota's largest economic sector, agriculture, was still recovering from past flooding when this summer's flash flooding occurred. The loss of revenue for our agriculture producers continues to directly impact North Dakota's economy, making this recent flooding that much more problematic.

In addition to the request for a presidential disaster declaration, North Dakota has also requested that the Hazard Mitigation Program be implemented to help communities reduce long-term risk of future flooding. This request is important because it will increase state resiliency and reduce future costs.

We urge you to approve a presidential disaster declaration as soon as possible so that the necessary federal resources are available to help and assist our state. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Kelly Armstrong
U.S. Congressman